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BOOK REVIEW

Roxburgh's Common Skin Diseases. Twelfth Edition, 1961. Revised by Peter Borrie, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P. Pp. 478, 231 figs, 8 col. pl. Lewis, London. (50s.).

Although now almost 30 years have passed since its first edition and 6 years since the death of Dr. Roxburgh, this book, ably revised by Dr. Peter Borrie, continues to be as popular and successful as ever. Based on the practice and methods of Dr. Roxburgh, who was a born teacher, it contains an adequate and concise account of most of the advances in treatment and technique and is well suited to the needs of student and practitioner. For the most part, the changes made since the 11th edition consist in the re-arrangement and presentation of the facts rather than precise clinical detail, although the illustrations are increased in number, most of them new and without exception of good quality.

The chapter on venereal diseases, re-written for the 11th edition by Dr. C. S. Nicol, has been left

unaltered. Of necessity in a textbook of dermatology, the consideration of syphilis is abbreviated but an adequate account of the pathology and cutaneous lesions is given. Major alterations have been made in the chapter dealing with psychogenic factors, seborrhoea, fungus diseases, purpura, and psoriasis. In the chapter devoted to the last of these subjects, room might perhaps have been found in the differential diagnosis to mention Reiter's syndrome with generalized keratoderma which can often appear more akin to arthropathic psoriasis than to rheumatoid arthritis. The circinate balanitis, genital lesions of keratoderma, and tongue lesions found very commonly in cases of Reiter's syndrome might be included with advantage in the differential diagnosis of genital and oral lesions. These are small points and in no way detract from the solid virtues of the book which, although increased in price, remains good value for money.

A.J.G.